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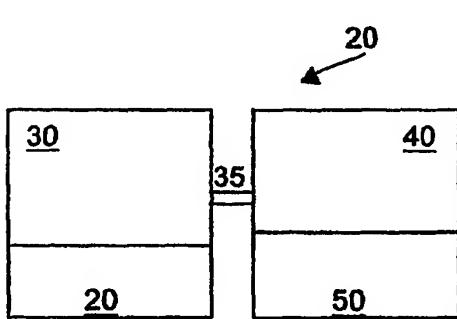
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR STORING PROTEINS



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for the storage of a protein (20) comprising a first compartment (30) for storing the protein (20) and a second compartment (40) for storing an alkaline buffer (50), the second compartment (40) being in fluid communication with the first compartment (30) is described. In one preferential embodiment of the invention, the alkaline buffer comprises calcium ions which encourage the gelling of the protein (20). A method for the storage of a protein (20) is also described. The method comprises: a first step of placing the protein in a first storage compartment (30); a second step of exposing the protein (20) to an alkaline buffer (50); and a third step of maintaining the protein (20) in the alkaline atmosphere in the first storage compartment (30).

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,A	<b>ANON.:</b> "Protein stability and storage" 'Online! 1 June 2003 (2003-06-01), PIERCE BIOTECHNOLOGY, INC , XP002278207 Retrieved from the Internet: URL:www.piercenet.com/files/TR0043dh4-Prot ein-storage.pdf> the whole document	1-33
A	<b>PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN</b> vol. 1997, no. 03, 31 March 1997 (1997-03-31) & JP 8 295697 A (KANEBO LTD), 12 November 1996 (1996-11-12) abstract	1-33  -/-

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,A	WO 03/037925 A (VOLLRATH FRITZ) 8 May 2003 (2003-05-08) the whole document -----	1-33
P,A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 05, 12 May 2003 (2003-05-12) & JP 2003 002898 A (KOWA CO; AGRICULTURE FORESTRY & FISHERIES TECHNICAL INFORMATION SOCIET), 8 January 2003 (2003-01-08) abstract -----	1-33

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JP 8295697 A	12-11-1996	NONE	
WO 03037925 A	08-05-2003	WO 03037925 A2	08-05-2003
JP 2003002898 A	08-01-2003	NONE	